

Record Series #: 1121-115

Name: Lilliemae Greatheart Howard family papers
Dates: 1889, 1898, 1904-1938, 1963-1966, no date
Extent/Size: 2.0 records cartons, 4.0 oversized folders (2.5 cubic feet)
Language: English

Name of Creator(s):

Lilliemae Greatheart Howard
Matthew Henry Howard
Patrick Wheeler Greatheart
Joseph Greatheart

Biographical History:

The Greatheart and Howard families were hard working and community-minded individuals, who lived in various cities in the South but eventually settled in Savannah, Georgia.

Reverend Patrick Wheeler Greatheart (1865-1926) was born on February 4, 1865 in Allendale, South Carolina to Mollie Mary Johnson and Reverend John G. Greatheart, a Baptist minister. His parents died when he was young, he attended Beaufort public schools, and became a teacher. He converted to the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church and graduated from Gammon Theological Seminary in May of 1892. Reverend Greatheart married Nancy Lay (1874-1925) on December 22, 1892. The couple moved to various Georgia and South Carolina cities to serve different pastorates. They eventually settled in Americus, Georgia and had several children, only two who survived adolescence; Lilliemae Greatheart (1895-1975) was the oldest, followed by Joseph Greatheart (1907-1939). The family moved to Savannah, Georgia around 1909 where Reverend Greatheart served the St. James Tabernacle AME Church. The family moved again to Atlanta, Georgia in 1913, where Reverend Greatheart worked as the Dean of the Theological Department at Morris Brown University.

Both Lilliemae and Joseph graduated from Morris Brown University. Joseph went on to attend Wilberforce University in Ohio and Lilliemae worked various jobs in colleges across the United States. Lilliemae was a stenographer and secretary at Howard University in Washington, D. C., Campbell College in Jackson, Mississippi, and Slater State Normal School, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Nancy Lay Greatheart passed away in Atlanta on March 8, 1925. Reverend Greatheart followed in death a year later in Charleston, South Carolina on March 31, 1926. The couple are buried in Americus, Georgia.

Lilliemae married Matthew Henry Howard (1884-1938) around 1927 and they settled in Savannah, Georgia. Matthew Howard was born in Tuskegee, Alabama on December 26, 1884 to a farmer with a big family. Matthew Howard was a veteran of World War I and, after his marriage to Lilliemae, he worked in Savannah as a barber and at the Savannah Merchants and Miners Transportation Company. Lilliemae and Howard had three children, Matthew Henry Howard, Jr. (1928-1981), Raymond Greatheart Howard (1930-2020), and Lilliemae Howard (1931-Unknown). Matthew Howard, Sr. passed away when the children were young on December 28, 1938.

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Joseph Greatheart married Rebecca White (1905-1992) on October 1, 1927. They settled in New York City, where Joseph worked as a porter at a train station. They had one child together, Joseph Greatheart, Jr., born February 20, 1929. Joseph died March 24, 1939.

Lilliemae Greatheart Howard lived in Savannah for the rest of her life; she passed away on March 27, 1975. She is buried with her husband and children in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

Scope & Content:

The Lilliemae Greatheart Howard family papers (1889, 1898, 1905-1938, 1963-1966, no date) include correspondence, drawings, publications, school records, greeting cards, postcards, and financial records from Lilliemae Greatheart Howard and her immediate family members. The bulk of the papers are letters and postcards written to Lilliemae when she lived in various cities working as a stenographer and secretary. Items of note include hand drawn pictures created by Joseph Greatheart and Lilliemae and correspondence from soldiers to Lilliemae during the first World War.

System of Arrangement & Ordering:

The Lilliemae Greatheart Howard family papers are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is stored offsite and researchers must request desired records at least one (1) full business day before research appointment for access.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Digital Access:

The Lilliemae Greatheart Howard family papers' photographs were previously separated and integrated into Record Series 1121-100, W. W. Law Photograph Collection. Select photographs

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have been partially digitized and are available electronically through the Municipal Archives Digital Image Catalog, available online at www.savannahga.gov/DigitalCollections. The online catalog is keyword searchable, allowing researchers to find identified individuals, groups, events, or places.

Related Collections:

Record Series 1121-100, W. W. Law Photograph Collection. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Access Points:

African American churches--Georgia
African American universities and colleges
African Methodist Episcopal Church. Atlanta Georgia Conference
Americus (Ga.)
Christian leadership--African Methodist Episcopal
Greatheart, Joseph, 1907-1939
Greatheart, Nancy, 1874-1925
Greatheart, Patrick Wheeler, 1865-1926
Howard, Lilliemae Greatheart, 1895-1975
Howard, Matthew Henry, 1884-1938
Howard University, Washington, D. C.
Morris Brown University
Savannah (Ga.)
Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio
World War, 1914-1918

Sponsors/Funding:

Chatham County, Georgia, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding.

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Processed by:

M. Kerkhoff, December 2020, revised, January 2021.

Record Series 1121-115, Lilliemae Greatheart Howard family papers

Inventory

Box

Folder *Folder title, date(s) [Archivist's notes]*

Box 1121-115-001

- Folder 1 Button and pin, no date [2 items; button depicting First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia]
- Folder 2 Commencement exercise programs and invitations for Morris Brown University, University of Denver, Albany Normal School, and Howard University, 1912-1915, 1920-1925 [included are Lilliemae and Joseph Greatheart's graduation programs from Morris Brown University]
- Folder 3 "Constitution and Rules of Order of the First African Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia," Savannah Journal Print, 1921
- Folder 4 Contact information, no date
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1905-1906
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1913-1914
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1915
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1916 February-July
- Folder 9 Correspondence, 1916 September-December
- Folder 10 Correspondence, 1917 January-August
- Folder 11 Correspondence, 1917 December
- Folder 12 Correspondence, 1918 January-June
- Folder 13 Correspondence, 1918 July-November
- Folder 14 Correspondence, 1919 January-April
- Folder 15 Correspondence, 1919 June-August
- Folder 16 Correspondence, 1919 September-December
- Folder 17 Correspondence, 1920 January-March
- Folder 18 Correspondence, 1920 June-September
- Folder 19 Correspondence, 1920 October-November
- Folder 20 Correspondence, 1921
- Folder 21 Correspondence, 1922 January-February
- Folder 22 Correspondence, 1922 May-June
- Folder 23 Correspondence, 1922 July-October
- Folder 24 Correspondence, 1922 November
- Folder 25 Correspondence, 1922 December
- Folder 26 Correspondence, 1923 January-February
- Folder 27 Correspondence, 1923 March
- Folder 28 Correspondence, 1923 April-May
- Folder 29 Correspondence, 1923 June-July
- Folder 30 Correspondence, 1923 August-September
- Folder 31 Correspondence, 1923 October
- Folder 32 Correspondence, 1923 November-December

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Box

Folder *Folder title, date(s) [Archivist's notes]*

Box 1121-115-001 Continued

Folder 33 Correspondence, 1924 January
Folder 34 Correspondence, 1924 February-March
Folder 35 Correspondence, 1924 April
Folder 36 Correspondence, 1924 May
Folder 37 Correspondence, 1924 June-July
Folder 38 Correspondence, 1924 August
Folder 39 Correspondence, 1924 September-October
Folder 40 Correspondence, 1924 November-December
Folder 41 Correspondence, 1925 January-February
Folder 42 Correspondence, 1925 March
Folder 43 Correspondence, 1925 April
Folder 44 Correspondence, 1925 May-June
Folder 45 Correspondence, 1925 July-August
Folder 46 Correspondence, 1925 September-October
Folder 47 Correspondence, 1925 November-December
Folder 48 Correspondence, 1926
Folder 49 Correspondence, 1930-1931
Folder 50 Correspondence, 1932

Box 1121-115-002

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1933-1938
Folder 2 Correspondence, No date
Folder 3 Correspondence, postcards, 1910, 1912-1921
Folder 4 Correspondence, postcards, 1922-1925, 1933, 1966, no date
Folder 5 "Court Order for Prince Delyono, Lonnie Mosley, and S. Green, Trustees and W. M. K. Miller, Pastor of the Zion White Bluff Baptist Colored Church vs. William A. Baker and Alfred P. Harms, D. B. A., Bakers Harms Construction Co. and Co-partnership, Chatham County Ordinary Court," May 1963
Folder 6 Drawings and prints, 1921, no date [drawings by Lilliemae and Joseph Greatheart]
Folder 7 Event programs, 1911, 1916-1918, 1964, no date [includes the "Program of the Sunday School ACE League, Missionary Society, Lay Organization, Boy and Girl Scouts of the Savannah District," St. James AME Church, July 8-10, 1964]
Folder 8 Financials, 1912, 1919, 1922-1929, no date
Folder 9 Financials, Freight shipping bills, 1909, 1925
Folder 10 Financials, receipts, 1912, 1921-1930, 1935, no date
Folder 11 Financials, receipts for college tuition, 1912, 1925, 1926

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Box

Folder *Folder title, date(s) [Archivist's notes]*

Box 1121-115-002 Continued

- Folder 12 General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church 26th Quadrennial Session Official Directory, St. Louis, Missouri, May 3-24, 1920
- Folder 13 General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church 27th Quadrennial Session Official Directory, Louisville, Kentucky, May 5-23, 1924
- Folder 14 Hump hair pins, black, made in Chicago, Illinois, Hump Hair Pin Manufacturing Company, no date
- Folder 15 Joseph Greatheart's report cards, 1922, 1925
- Folder 16 Leather luggage tag, "Lilliemae Greatheart, Washington, D. C." no date
- Folder 17 Lilliemae Greatheart's horoscope chart, 1925
- Folder 18 Lilliemae Greatheart's publications [including a manual on shorthand, a book on good manners, and a Soldier's French phrase book], 1916, 1918, no date
- Folder 19 Matthew Howard's notebooks, 1922-1928, no date
- Folder 20 Minutes of the 20th Annual Session of the Berean Baptist Association held with Nicholsonboro Baptist Church, White Bluff, Georgia, July 20-23, 1911
- Folder 21 "My Face is to the Rising Sun," by Whitman Publishing Company, Raine, Wisconsin, 1931
- Folder 22 Nancy Greatheart's obituaries, 1925
- Folder 23 News clippings on various subjects, 1922, 1925
- Folder 24 Notes from school, crocheting, and books, 1933, no date
- Folder 25 Oglethorpe Practice School of Atlanta University pamphlet, March 1907
- Folder 26 Organizations procedures and bylaws for the Waldorf Civic and Social Club and the Supreme Circle of Benevolence of the United States, 1974, no date
- Folder 27 Patrick W. Greatheart's documents, 1920-1924, no date
- Folder 28 Patrick W. Greatheart's teaching material, 1889, no date
- Folder 29 Religious publications, 1919, no date
- Folder 30 Scrapbook loose pages of postcards sent to Lilliemae, 1909, 1911-1912
- Folder 31 Speeches: Thomas M. Blodgett on "Degradation of Republicanism in Georgia"; Reverend A. B. B. Gibson to the graduating class at Washington Street School; and a speech on Bishop Flipper written by unknown author, 1907, no date
- Folder 32 Stationary, no date
- Folder 33 Stickers, Christmas, no date
- Folder 34 Supreme Circle of America ribbon and attached button, circa 1898
- Folder 35 Tags for Christmas and labeling, no date
- Folder 36 "Under Fire," Chapters 19-20, no date [partial copies, unknown author; about African American soldiers]
- Folder 37 Webster's Academic Dictionary partial cover, no date
- Folder 38 Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) membership cards for Lilliemae and Matthew Howard, 1915, 1924-1928

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Box

Folder *Folder title, date(s) [Archivist's notes]*

Oversized Box 1121-000-0004

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| Folder 1121-115-003 | “Hope and Promise” calendar, Liberty Savings and Real Estate Corporation, Macon, Georgia, 1924 |
| Folder 1121-115-004 | Pastor’s appointments for Milton Addison and unknown individual, 1919, 1924 |
| Folder 1121-115-005 | Patrick W. Greatheart’s Certificates of Election to the 22 nd Quadrennial AME General Conference and the 27 th Quadrennial AME General Conference, 1904, 1923 |
| Folder 1121-115-006 | Patrick W. Greatheart’s pastoral credentials in the AME church, 1911-1912, 1921-1924 |